



ISAA

National Newsletter

Independent Scholars Association of Australia Inc

The Boab tree is self-sustaining; it draws on its own resources

No. 85
June 2025

ISSN 1838-319X

Print Post Approved 100011 17

ISAA
GPO Box 268
Canberra ACT 2601
email: info@isaa.org.au
www.isaa.org.au
ABN: 62 304 661526

Editor: Christine Yeats FRAHS
Email: ciyeats@gmail.com

In this issue

- President's Report
- News from NSW
- Scholarly Reflections
- Spotlight: Prof Shirley Randell AO and Dr Ian Willis OAM
- Members' publications presentations and activities

MEMBERSHIP

\$80—Full members
\$50—Concessional
\$140—Household
\$75—Concessional Household
.

President's Report

Welcome to the June 2025 Newsletter.

This newsletter report reminds members of opportunities for you to be actively involved in the work of ISAA.

Christine de Matos and Ron Popenhagen have volunteered to take on the role of Assistant Editors of *ISAA Review* at least for 2025. They have put out a call for contributions. The **deadline for submission of contributions has been extended until Monday 30 June 2025**, for publication in the second half of 2025. By the time the newsletter is distributed, that deadline will have passed, but there will still be room for more contributions. Please send contributions to info@isaa.org.au. **We are also soliciting book reviews** - Alan Roberts has agreed to continue as Book Reviews editor for 2025, so please consider sharing your evaluation of your reading and send copy to info@isaa.org.au.

The Membership Committee investigations showed that *ISAA Review* was valued highly by members, and we know that, through the arrangements with Informit, EBSCO and Cengage, which make articles published available online, the contents of *ISAA Review* have a reach beyond ISAA membership.

It is time to start the planning for the ISAA Conference 2026. The proposal is that the conference be held in Sydney. **Would YOU like to take on the role of conference convenor?** If so, please do contact Ian Keese, who has been conference convenor for a while, has offered to be a mentor and share his extensive experience. keeseian@gmail.com

Before we know it, it will be October and the time when the ISAA AGM is usually held. **If you are interested in nominating for a position on ISAA Council**, or if you see something that you would like to take on, on behalf of ISAA Council, please let me know through the ISAA email info@isaa.org.au

There are opportunities too to attend ISAA activities via Zoom. ISAA NSW recently ran its Open Forum online.

ISAA President's Report cont.

Dr Kate Laing spoke on *Sisters in Peace: The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in Australia, 1915–2015*, her book published by ANU Press. The book examines the rise of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), providing a gendered history of this country's engagement with the politics of internationalism. It was an interesting talk on such an important topic.

PYC

Finding that the book you want to read is out of print or not held in a library you can easily visit can be very frustrating. A number of scholarly publishers are digitising their back catalogue. ANU Press has joined that group of publishers. A collaborative project undertaken by ANU Press and the ANU Digitisation Team has enabled over 500 scholarly works, originally published by The Australian National University Press between 1965–1991, to be made available to a global audience under its open-access policy. You can find them here: <https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/archive>

Dr Hilary Yerbury
ISAA National President

The screenshot shows the ANU Press Archive website. At the top, there is a header with the Australian National University logo, the text 'ANU PRESS', a shopping cart icon showing '\$0.00 (0 items)', and a search bar labeled 'Search ANU Press'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: 'About us', 'Search titles', 'News & events', 'For authors', 'For libraries', 'FAQs', and 'Contact'. The main content area is titled 'ANU Press Archive, 1965–1991' and includes a descriptive paragraph about the project. A search bar with 'Search' and 'Reset' buttons is present. Below the search bar, it says 'Displaying results 1 to 25 of 537.' and 'Sort by relevance'. Two book results are shown: 'Australia in peace and war: external relations since 1788' (1991) and 'The last explorer: autobiography of Michael Terry' (1987). Each result includes a book cover image, the title, publication date, and a brief description. A 'View title' button is next to each result. On the left side of the page, there is a sidebar menu with links: 'About us', 'Search titles', 'Coming soon', 'New releases', 'Books', 'Journals', 'Textbooks', 'Press Archive 1965–1991', 'Authors & editors', 'News & events', 'For authors', 'For libraries', 'FAQs', and 'Contact'. At the bottom of the sidebar are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

News from ISAA NSW

Upcoming Events

Work in Progress Talk – 26 June 2025 Christine Yeats will present our next Work in Progress talk at History House (133 Macquarie Street, Sydney). Christine will speak on her ongoing biographical research into Esther Vincent 'Hope' Ryrie (1910–2003), a prominent Sydney dance teacher. Christine's talk will explore Ryrie's legacy and the broader significance of her work in the context of Australian cultural history.

Doing Research Talk – Second Half of 2025 Chloë Mason has agreed to present a Doing Research talk later this year. She is currently considering possible dates for the session.

Workshop – 22 November 2025 Associate Professor Stephanie Russo has been confirmed as the keynote speaker for the annual workshop. The theme is *The Power of Fiction*.

A call for abstracts will be circulated shortly.

Publications

The June issue of the *ISAA NSW Bulletin* has been distributed.

Committee Update

The following positions have been filled at the Annual General Meeting held on 1 May 2025 for the coming year:

Chair: Christine Yeats

Treasurer: Rodney Nilsen

Vice-Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Vacant (interim support being provided as needed by Christine Jennett)

Immediate Past Chair: Christine Jennett

Ordinary Members: Lesley Potter, Michelle Cavanagh, Susan Steggall, Judith Bonzol and Alice Paul.

Christine Yeats
Chair ISAA NSW

Scholarly Reflections

This issue includes the following Scholarly

Jim Hodges – *How the Universe Works: Fact & Appearance in Physics and Cosmology* - Pt 7, Magnetism

Susan Steggall – *The Society of Women Writers NSW Inc Turns 100!*

The views and opinions expressed in the articles published in the Scholarly Reflections are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of ISAA.



<https://stockcake.com/s/literature-reflection>

Scholarly Reflections

How the Universe Works: Fact & Appearance in Physics and Cosmology – Pt 6, Magnetism

In the First Experiment, hold one end of a bar-magnet above a teaspoon, and the spoon is snatched up from the table because (i) the magnetised iron bar has aligned the twist of its standing ether-wave protons and electrons along the long axis of the magnet, and since the protons and electrons twist the ether one way internally and the other way externally, the external ether torsional strain affects the spoon such that (ii) the protons and electrons in the spoon align and twist in the same direction as the protons and electrons in the bar-magnet, and the ensuing enhanced torsional ether strain in the gap between magnet and teaspoon impels the teaspoon to relieve the ether torsional strain by leaping into contact with the magnet!

In the Second Experiment, the bar magnet is thrust into a cardboard tube which has been wound with insulated copper wire - the rapid insertion twists the ether immersing the coiled wire, but because the ether is elastic it jerks back in the opposite direction thus sending an ether shear-wave around the wire circuit loop connecting the ends of the coil. Quickly withdrawing the bar magnet from the solenoid triggers another pulse of ether shear strain around the wire circuit in the opposite direction, which phenomenon is used to generate alternating electrical current in power stations, producing ether shear-wave pulses of AC for electric lights, motors, heating and cooling, railway transport and electro-communications etc.

In the Third Experiment, a carbon rod is placed in the centre of a small zinc can filled with ammonium chloride paste, and this device creates a chemical electro-potential because (a) the zinc produces positive zinc ions inside the dry cell leaving negatively charged electrons on the outer zinc surface, and (b) the carbon rod surrounds itself with positively charged hydrogen ions (protons), such that when a loop of copper wire is connected between the cell's outside surface and the carbon rod, this provides a path to equalise the compacted ether outside of the cell (negative terminal) with the attenuated ether at the central carbon rod (positive terminal), thereby producing a direct current of ether shear-strain gradient along the wire conductor. Note that although this DC cell causes a slow drift of electrons along the conductor from the negative to the positive terminal, it is important to realise that electricity is in essence is an ether shear-strain gradient along the conductor.

The conventional wisdom about the nature of magnetism is incorrect – although the pattern of lines of iron filings on a sheet of cardboard placed above a magnet misled Faraday into thinking these indicated 'lines of magnetic force', in fact the spacing between the lines of iron filings delineates shells of diminishing ether shear strain. Also, our ideas about the nature of electricity are flawed because we haven't recognised that electrical currents are shear-strain gradients in the ether surrounding wire conductors.

Once on track in our understanding of the link between magnetism (magnetism & electricity) and gravity (see Pt 6 of HTUW) we will become an interstellar civilisation. But because the universe is teeming with extra-terrestrial life-forms we will have to learn to 'get along' – which is to say we will have to act out of character and be nice to the ETs, because this is how the universe works!

*Jim Hodges
Ether Drift Club
ISAA member*

Scholarly Reflections cont.

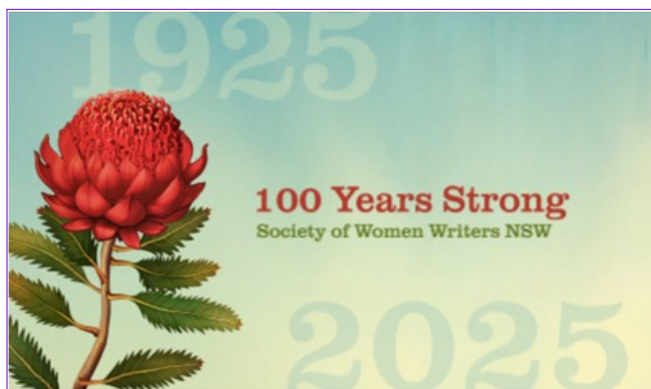
In 1925 a group of women writers and journalists met to form the Society of Women Writers. Over the ensuing decades, the Society's goals of encouraging its members to write, network and achieve professional status have remained constant.

In recent decades, the Society of Women Writers NSW Inc has celebrated anniversaries by publishing anthologies of women's writing. The Society marked its seventieth anniversary (1995) with the publication *No Thanks or Regrets* (State Library of NSW Press 1996). Continuing this tradition for its eightieth birthday, *A Way of Happening*, was a collection of the twelve short stories and twelve poems judged best entries in the 2005 National Short Story and National Poetry Competitions respectively. In acknowledging the work of SWW members who published *INK 1* and *INK 2*, for its ninetieth anniversary the Society presented *INK 3*, an anthology of the best entries in the 2015 writing competitions: Non-Fiction, Short Story and Poetry. The theme, 'Giving women a voice' invited women as mothers, daughters, grandmothers and friends to step up and stand out.

The 2025 Centenary Anthology, *INK 4*, continues this tradition. In over sixty stories, essays and poems, fifty-two women writers continue to make their voices heard on topics ranging from tales of resilience and hardship, discussions of personal and public interest, conventional memoir and unconventional journeys, both historical and contemporary. There are reflections on ageing and illness and tributes to women both past and present – in short, a snapshot of Australian women writing now.

Centenary celebrations do not end there. There have already been several celebratory occasions at the State Library of NSW and a Beatie Bow Walking Tour of The Rocks. A Centenary Lunch is planned for 10 September at Parliament House, A song has been specially written to mark the year, recorded in the Centenary Animation Video (www.womenwritersnsw.org and on YouTube).

Dr Susan Steggall
ISAA NSW Committee



Spotlight on Professor Shirley Randell AO

Publications

Randell, Shirley, AO, *Celebrating 50 Years of the ACT Education System, 1973-2003, Promises, Challenges and Progress*, ANME Monograph Series: Historical Perspectives on Education, Australian National Museum of Education Series Editor: Margot Hillman OAM, Monograph 17, University of Canberra, February 2025.

Hopman, Claudia Zwart, *How Women Leaders Change the World*, Shirley Kaye Randell, *Global Women Leadership*, TOTARA Productions Ltd, Oosterheut, The Netherlands, November 2014 and February 2025, pp. 124-127.

Castro, Francisca and Paula Stott, National History Challenge 2024, Women's History Award Winner Abigail Cho with Professor Shirley Randell AO, *Teaching History: Journal of the Teachers History Association: Historical Concepts and Skills*, Volume 58, No. 4, December 2024, pp. 53-56.



Speeches and Presentations

Randell, S. K. *Ensuring Women Count Too*, Closing Address by Shirley Randell, Ambassador OWN, The Older Women's Network NSW Annual Conference, Ultimo, NSW, 10 October 2024.

Randell, S. K. *A record of Erica's outstanding work and character as Director of the Tennant Creek Arts Centre in the Northern Territory a decade ago*, speech by Shirley Randell, Mother of the Bride, Yellow Rock, NSW, 10 December 2024.

Randell, Shirley, Participation with six women in Seminar on *Women Leadership: How ethics and traumatic experiences shape women leaders' identities, power and decision making*, United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, New York, USA, 10 March 2025.

Spotlight on Professor Shirley Randell AO (cont.)



Speeches and Presentations

Randell, S. K. and B. M. Mason, on the UN CSW proceedings and the seminar on *Women Leadership: how ethics and traumatic experiences shape women's identities, power and decision-making*. Report on their experiences as speakers and participants in Seminars at the 2025 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, New York, USA, Graduate Women NSW City Branch Morning Tea Forum Power Point presentations, 27 March 2025.

Randell, S. K. Zonta Breakfast Club, *Report on the 2025 UN Commission on the Status of Women meetings and her contribution to the seminar on Women Leadership at the United Nations Churches Centre in New York*, PowerPoint presentation, Sydney, NSW, 27 April 2025.

Randell, S. K. AO, *Introduction to Dr Wendy Michaels OAM, The 2025 Maybanke Lecturer* (honoring the work of Maybanke Selfe Wolstenholme Anderson, women's advocate and social reformer, on the 133rd anniversary of her first public speech on 6 May 1891): *Whose Child? Millicent Preston Stanley's Campaign for Mother's Rights*, and the Launch of *A Battle-axe in the Bear Pit: Millicent Preston Stanley MP*, Connor Court Publishing, Redmond Bay Qld, 2025, at the Union, University and Schools Club, Sydney, NSW, 6 May 2025.

Randell, S. K. *Thankyou speech of appreciation for GWNSW 2023 Tempe Mann Travelling Scholarship Awardee*. Hope Tanudisastro's address at Morning Tea Forum, Sydney NSW, 14 May 2025.

Bende, Nick, *Interview with Shirley Randell: a life a contribution* in his forthcoming book on *Interviews with 500 Strangers*, Sydney, NSW, 5 May 2025.

Spotlight on Dr Ian Willis OAM

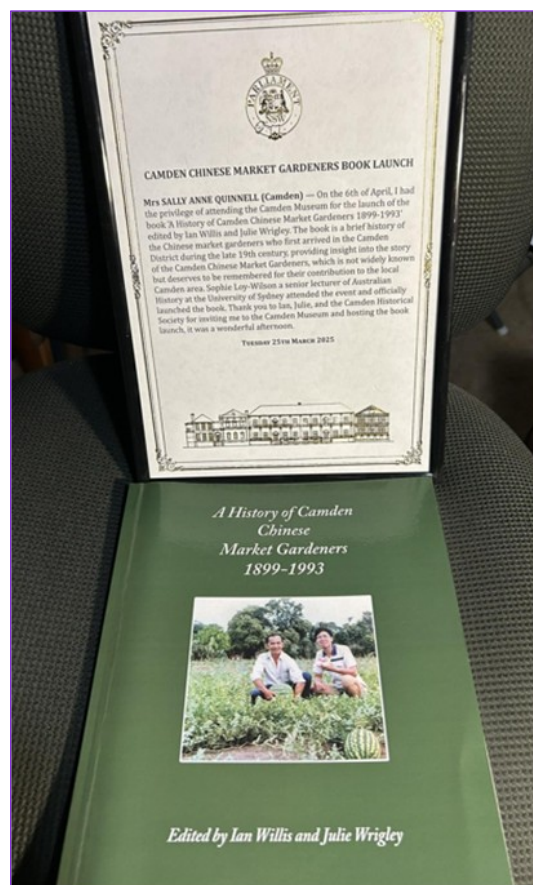
Citation read in the NSW Parliament by Mrs Sally Quinnell MP, Member for Camden.

Legislative Assembly Hansard – 14 May 2024

A History of Camden Chinese Market Gardeners 1899-1993

Mrs Sally Quinnell (Camden) (18:26): On 6 April I had the privilege of attending the Camden Museum for the launch of the book *A History of Camden Chinese Market Gardeners 1899-1993*, edited by Ian Willis and Julie Wrigley. The book is a brief history of the Chinese market gardeners who first arrived in the Camden district during the late nineteenth century, providing insight into the story of the Camden Chinese market gardeners, a story which is not widely known but deserves to be remembered. The Chinese market gardeners made a positive contribution to the Camden area that will be more well-known and widely told due to the publishing of the book. Sophie Loy-Wilson, a senior lecturer of Australian history at the University of Sydney, attended the event and officially launched the book. Thank you to Ian, Julie and the Camden Historical Society for inviting me to the Camden Museum and hosting the book launch. It was a wonderful afternoon.

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/permalink?id=HANSARD-1323879322-141015>



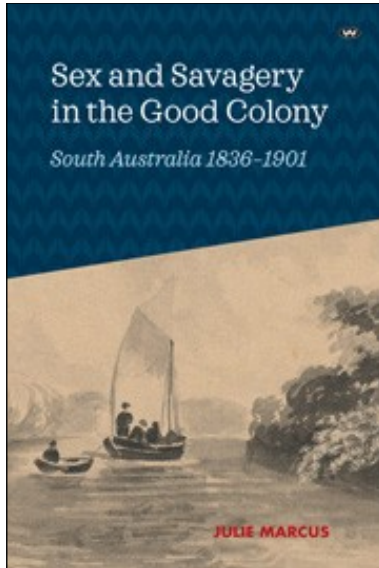
28 May 2025 Presentation in the NSW Parliament by Sally Quinnell MP (Photographs supplied by Dr Ian Willis OAM)

Members' Publications, Presentations, Activities and News

Julie Marcus PhD

Publication

Sex and Savagery in the Good Colony of South Australia, 1836 to 1901, Adelaide, Wakefield Press, 2025.



14 April Ashfield Proboscis – *Voices from the past: stories of convict lives*.

29 March Royal Australian Historical Society and Central Coast Family History Society Regional Seminar – *Looking outside the square: exploring business and biographical records in family and local History*.

12 March Hawkesbury Family History Group *Stepping Ashore: Researching passenger and other arrivals*.

Television appearance

Guest on the television program *Who Do You Think You Are?* (Series 16, Episode 5) featuring Tom Gleeson.



Trevor R Parmenter AM PhD

Publication

Gallego, G, O'Brien, P, Goossens, C, Parmenter, T, Riches, V, & O'Donovan M-A 'My Life: A photovoice exploration of aspirations of people with intellectual disabilities'. *Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*. (2025) (<https://doi.org/10.1111/jar.70027>).

Contributions to the ISAA Newsletter in 2025

The deadlines for contributions to the Newsletter in 2025 will be:

5 September

14 November

Susan Steggall PhD

Presentations

10 April North Curl Curl U3A – *To Carve Identity – in Life, Art & Literature*.

13 May Narrabeen Booklovers – *To Carve Identity – in Life, Art & Literature*.

Christine Yeats FRAHS

Presentations

11 June Workshop for Ku-ring-gai Historical Society on managing a local archives collection (10.30 am-2.00 pm) 10 May Ryde District Historical Society – *Crimes and misdemeanours: Ryde district*.

19 April Lake Macquarie Family History Group – *Researching military service records: 1788-1945*.